THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) In no case or group of cases penalty of Rs. 10,000/- crore has been levied during the F.Y. 2004-05.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to Part (a).

Performance of Kisan Credit Card Scheme

138. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Kisan Credit Cards issued to farmers till date since its inception, year-wise;

(b) the number of farmers in the country eligible for Kisan Credit Cards;

(c) the amount of money advanced to farmers under this scheme, year-wise; and

(d) by when Government expect to cover all the farmers of the country under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (c) The Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme was launched in August 1998. The year-wise details of number of KCCs issued by Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative Banks and amount sanctioned under the scheme since then are as under:

(Amount Rs. in crore)

Year	No. of Cards	Amount sanctioned
1998-1999	784165	2310
1999-2000	5134081	7548
2000-2001	8652357	16427
2001-2002	9340534	25858
2002-2003	8242756	26277
2003-2004	9246633	21785
2004-2005	9680374	34185
TOTAL	51080900	134390

(b) and (d) Over five crore KCCs have been issued since launch of the scheme in 1998 Banks have been advised to endeavour to cover remaining eligible farmers within the next two to three years by mounting publicity

measures to popularise the scheme and by launching a time bound programme aimed at motivating the non-willful defaulters to clear their dues and become eligible for KCC.

Slow Economic Growth Rate

139. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country's overall economic growth, as measured by its GDP, has slowed down to 6.9 per cent in 2004-05 as compared to 8.5 per cent in the previous fiscal;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the growth rate in agriculture during 2004-05 has plummeted to 1.1 per cent as compared to 9.6 per cent in 2003-04; and

(c) if so, the reason for such a lower growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) As per the Central Statistical Organisation, the overall growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at factor cost at constant prices as per the revised estimates is 6.9 per cent in 2004-05 compared to 8.5 per cent in 2003-04. The overall growth in 2004-05 at 6.9 per cent is supported by growth in agriculture & allied industry and service sectors of 1.1 per cent, 7.7 per cent and 8.9 per cent, respectively, compared to 9.6 per cent, 6.6 per cent and 9.1 per cent, respectively, in 2003-04. The lower estimated growth in 2004-05 is mainly attributable to lower rainfall affecting agricultural growth. However, the industry and services sectors have maintained the growth momentum indicating resilience of the economy.

Tax exemption under Export Promotion Schemes

†140. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the exemption of Rs. 39,704 crores has been provided through taxes under the export promotion schemes during the year 2004-05;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.